## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 00666 271832Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 EURE-00 /077 W

-----271838Z 071554 /45

P 271641Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY MADRID TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8766

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 0666

ALSO FOR SCS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, SP, CASC

SUBJECT: US CITIZENS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN MADRID

1. WHILE THE SEVERITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE POST-FRANCO PERIOD (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BASQUE REGION) HAVE OFTEN BEEN EXAGGERATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, THE JANUARY 23-24 DEMONSTRATIONS IN MADRID DID TAKE ON AN UGLY TONE. FIVE YOUNG AMERICANS WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE JANUARY 23-24 MELEES BY THE DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE AND WERE INJURED (ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY NOT SERIOUSLY) BY POLICE, ACCORDING TO THEIR ACCOUNTS, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.

2. CONSULAR SECTION TOOK DETAILED STATEMENTS FROM EACH
OF THE AMERICANS AND ON JANUARY 26 ON AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
CONGEN RAISED WITH SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS OUR DEEP CONCERN,

GIVING THE OFFICIALS THE STATEMENTS OF EACH OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THAT ALL PROBABILITY THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP REGRET AND PROMISED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MADRID 00666 271832Z

TO FORWARD THE STATEMENTS FOR INVESTIGATION BY THE AUTHORITIES. THEY NOTE, UNDERSTANDABLY, THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY.

3. FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF THE 23-24 WE ALERTED THE CONSULATES AND DISCREETLY SUGGESTED TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MADRID AND US MILITARY COMMANDS IN SPAIN TO

EXERCISE PRUDENCE IN STAYING AWAY FROM POTENTIAL TROUBI	LE
SPOTS UNTIL THINGS CALMED DOWN. STABLER	

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## Message Attributes

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